

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /096 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7393

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 2431

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, KS, KN

SUBJECT: TEXT OF ROKG PRESS STATEMENT ON APRIL 17 DMZ INCIDENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY ROK DEFENSE
MINISTRY APRIL 18 AT 1000 HOURS:

BEGIN TEST

TWO COMMUNIST BANDITS KILLED INFILTRATING THE FRONT LINE--
THE COUNTER ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS OF THE ROK ARMY
ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT TWO ARMED COMMUNIST BANDITS
WERE KILLED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO INFILTRATE THE DMZ IN FRONT
OF THE (CENSORED) DIVISION AND NUMEROUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT
WERE SEIZED. AT 2320 HOURS ON APRIL 17, MEMBERS OF THE
FRIENDLY FORCES ON GUARD SIGHTED THREE ARMED AGENTS WHO WERE
ATTEMPTING TO INFILTRATE THE WIRE FENCE OF THE FRIENDLY FORCES
AFTER CROSSING THE MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE. TWO OF THESE
MEN WERE KILLED BY SURPRISE FIRE AND THE OTHER IS BEING
SEARCHED FOR AT PRESENT. PARA)
FRIENDLY FORCES HAD NO CASUALTIES. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE
RECOVERED: 3 SHORT AUTOMATIC RIFLES, SIXTY ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION,
TWO HAND GRENADES, ONE COMPASS, ONE PAIR WIRE CUTTERS, ONE
CAMERA, ONE PAIR BINOCULARS, FIVE ROLLS OF FILM, ONE BAG OF
SKIMMED RICE, ONE BAG BAKED RICE POWDER, RED PEPPER PASTE,
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SPICES, AND 24 OTHER ITEMS INCLUDING A SHOVEL, MAP (NORTH KOREAN ISSUE, 1:50,000), RAINCOAT, KNAPSACK, BINDING ROPES, ETC. (PARA) COMMENTING ON THE INFILTRATION AY SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO ATTEMPT ACHIEVEMENT OF FINAL VICTORY BY A NEW OFFENSIVE. NOTING " REPORTS " THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS MAY WITHDRAW (REF B) EDITORIAL SAYS THAT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN VIET NAM COMPEL INDONESIA TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION MORE CLOSELY, REAFFIRMS INDONESIA' S INTEREST IN HELPING TO ACHIEVE INDOCHINA PEACE, AND CONCLUDES THAT IF THE POWERS INVOLVED DON' T WANT RECONCILIATION, " THE ROLE OF THE ICCS IS DIFFICULT INDEED."

2. IN GENERALLY SIMILAR EDITORIAL, MAJOR AFTERNOON DAILY SINAR HARAPAN (PROTESTANT ORIENTED) SAYS THAT TIME WILL SOON ARRIVE FOR INDONESIA TO DECIDE WHETHER HER CONTINGENT CAN CONTINUE TO SERVE. IN SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC VEIN, BERITA BUANA (NOMINALLY INDEPENDENT BUT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONNECTED) ECHOES COMMON VIEW THAT INDOCHINA SITUATION IS DETERIORATING, EXPRESSES HOPE THAT INDONESIA WON' T NEED TO WITHDRAW CONTINGENT BUT WINDS UP, " IF FORCED (TO WITHDRAW), WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?". GOVERNMENT PARTY (GOLKAR) ORGAN SUARA KARYA PLACES LESS EMPHASIS ON WITHDRAWAL POSSIBILITY AND CALLS FOR " REGULATIONS" TO GUARANTEE SUCCESS OF ICCS MISSION. NEITHER OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DAILIES WHICH SPEAK MOST RELIABLY FOR THE ARMY HAVE COMMENTED ON THE PANGGABEAN STATEMENT YET AND THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT. TOUSSAINT

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